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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bahrain

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-seventh session from 1 to 12 May 2017. The review of Bahrain was held at the 1st meeting, on 1 May 2017. The delegation of Bahrain was headed by the Assistant Foreign Minister, Abdulla bin Faisal Aldoseri. At its 10th meeting, held on 5 May 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Bahrain.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bahrain: Cuba, Ghana and Japan.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Bahrain:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/BHR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/BHR/2 and Corr.1);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/BHR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Bahrain through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation informed the Human Rights Council that the universal periodic review provided a chance to highlight the achievements of the kingdom in advancing the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development. Those rights were realized in the framework of a reform-based approach pursued by the king.

6. The Government had dealt positively and responsibly with the recommendations made in May 2012, during the second-cycle review of the kingdom. Of those recommendations, 145 had enjoyed the kingdom's full support.

7. On 6 April 2017, OHCHR had issued a corrigendum (A/HRC/WG.6/27/BHR/2/Corr.1) to the compilation on Bahrain — five weeks after the issuance of the original document. The compilation had included false information, some of which had been attributed to United Nations agencies and bodies. However, that information had not correctly reflected the kingdom's achievements and developments. Among those achievements was the success of the national dialogue that had led to agreement on basic proposals for constitutional amendments aimed at enhancing the competence of the legislative authority.

8. The public had been informed about the upcoming universal periodic review, and the national report had been prepared in consultation with civil society and the national human rights institution.

9. Law No. 52 of 2012 had amended some penal code provisions, including the definition of torture in articles 208 and 232, which had been revised in a manner that legally protected human dignity. The Law stipulated that crimes of torture were not subject to the statute of limitations, which affirmed that impunity did not exist in Bahrain. Legislative

decree No. 42 of 2002 and its amendment of 2015 affirmed the rule of law, the independence and integrity of the judiciary and the provision of fair trial safeguards, including the right of defence. Law No. 17 of 2015 on protection against domestic violence had been adopted, and Law No. 26 of 2014 on the establishment of the national institution for human rights had been amended by legislative decree No. 20 of 2016. Law No. 26 and its amendments affirmed the independence of the national institution and its alignment with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). Royal decree No. 70 of 2014, amending some provisions of legislative decree No. 5 of 2002, had been promulgated, approving accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and reformulating the kingdom's reservations to the Convention.

10. Regarding national protective mechanisms for human rights, Bahrain had adopted constitutional amendments in 2012 that affirmed the competence of the elected Council of Representatives and amended the regulations on the appointment of members of the Shura Council. Bahrain had strengthened capacity-building for the executive branch, the judiciary and civil society, and the role of the Supreme Council for Women, which undertook numerous activities in accordance with well-considered plans, including the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women (2013-2022), which promoted the empowerment of women economically and politically. In cooperation with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim al-Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment had been established. Also established were the Office of the Ombudsman, which could deal with complaints, the Special Investigations Unit and the commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees.

11. The freedoms of expression, assembly, association and demonstration were safeguarded by national legislation. The exercise of those rights necessitated that the rights be regulated by the rule of law and respect for human rights; such rights could not be an excuse to use violence, to assault individuals, to attack private or public property or to ignite sectarianism or hatred.

12. A prize had been sponsored under the name of King Hamad Bin Isa al-Khalifa and administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The award contributed to the realization of UNESCO objectives and policies and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to the implementation of educational, pedagogical, religious and media programmes to promote the values of moderation and tolerance and to combat any speech that incited violence, terrorism, religious hatred, sectarianism and racism. In addition to its achievements in educational services, Bahrain was advanced with respect to the medical care it provided for citizens and for residents, and had achieved the best health statistics at both regional and international levels.

13. Bahrain had designed a number of national plans and strategies that guaranteed and assisted in the promotion of human rights at the national level, for example the government programme of action for the period 2015-2018, entitled: "Towards the justice, security and well-being of society", which was aimed at continuing development and construction and focusing on sustainable development in the kingdom while emphasizing the promotion of individual rights, including to freedom of opinion and of expression, and respect for human rights in a framework of constitutional and legal legitimacy.

14. The allegations of human rights violations claimed by a few non-governmental organizations (NGOs) revealed a huge lack of credibility and a great politicization of human rights. The head of the delegation refuted those allegations; Bahrain represented a model for the protection of freedom of thought, opinion, religion and belief. Freedom to practise religious rituals without any interference was guaranteed. The pluralism of trade unions in every enterprise placed Bahrain among advanced countries in terms of freedom of association.

15. Bahrain was aware that the process of encouraging respect for and protection of human rights was a continuing process that was not free of challenges and difficulties. The kingdom was determined to proceed in its efforts at all levels to promote and protect human rights despite all challenges, which included external interference in the affairs of the State, heightened risks of extremist sectarianism, intolerance, terrorism and infringement of the

right of citizens and residents to live safely, including security officers who were targeted while performing their duties and outside their working hours. Such acts of terrorism impaired the right to live in security and hampered efforts to ensure stability and inclusive development. Therefore, Bahrain, in accordance with the law, endeavoured to confront such acts and address them while upholding human rights.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

16. During the interactive dialogue, 82 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

17. Mexico noted efforts made by Bahrain to ensure freedom of opinion and expression, but expressed concern about measures adopted to restrict the rights to freedom of association and assembly and to freedom of expression.

18. Qatar commended the programmes that promoted human rights, the plan of action for 2015-2018, and the adoption of a law on the national human rights institution to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles.

19. Morocco commended the commitments to promote human rights and the rule of law through the adoption of national action plans and legislation in that field.

20. Mozambique noted the adoption of the national development strategy for 2015-2018, prepared in connection with the country's Economic Vision 2030, and congratulated Bahrain for its accession to seven of the core international human rights instruments.

21. Myanmar noted with satisfaction a number of achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in the advancement of women.

22. Nepal commended the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman. It encouraged Bahrain to continue its ongoing and planned efforts to provide just and favourable conditions of work for, and improve the safety and security of, migrant workers.

23. The Netherlands expressed regret about the reversals of earlier progress made by Bahrain following the events of 2011, and expressed concern about the amendment to article 105 (b) of the Constitution allowing for the prosecution of civilians by military courts.

24. New Zealand welcomed progress made in empowering women and young persons and was encouraged that a number of institutions had continued to investigate alleged human rights violations by security forces.

25. Norway recognized positive steps taken to improve the human rights situation, in particular the creation of various institutions.

26. Oman welcomed the incorporation of the national plan to promote the advancement of women into the plan of action for 2015-2018.

27. Pakistan commended Bahrain for its efforts to implement the recommendations made in the previous universal periodic review cycles and noted a number of initiatives and efforts to build capacity to strengthen human rights.

28. The Philippines expressed satisfaction with the launching of the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women and that Bahrain was now party to seven of the core human rights conventions. It urged Bahrain to strengthen its normative human rights framework.

29. Portugal welcomed the establishment of a national human rights institution, an ombudsman's office and a commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees. It was concerned about the executions of three persons — the first executions in six years.

30. Montenegro noted that some measures, including legislative and institution-building measures, had been taken, but also noted limited progress in several areas, including freedom of expression and of assembly, the application of the death penalty and the fight against torture.

31. The Republic of Korea noted efforts made, including the establishment of the national human rights institution, and the financial contributions Bahrain had made to OHCHR. It stated that issues relating to civil and political rights remained a challenge.

32. Saudi Arabia welcomed the measures taken, particularly relating to cooperation with United Nations mechanisms and the implementation of the recommendations from the second cycle, and commended the efforts to combat human trafficking.

33. Senegal welcomed measures taken, including the establishment of a national human rights institution, a commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees and campaigns to raise awareness of human rights norms among members of the security forces.

34. Sierra Leone noted the establishment of an ombudsman's office, the Special Investigations Unit and a national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women. It urged Bahrain to authorize visits of special procedure mandate holders.

35. Singapore commended concrete measures to implement recommendations made during the review in 2012 and noted efforts to improve women's rights and also to protect and support persons with disabilities, in particular through the implementation of programmes and centres to improve access to education and job training.

36. Slovenia called on Bahrain to ensure a safe and enabling environment in which human rights defenders could freely express their views and advocate for the protection and promotion of human rights, and urged the State to reconsider its position on the death penalty.

37. Spain acknowledged efforts made to improve the human rights situation, particularly the establishment of institutions to promote human rights and the adoption of measures to combat torture.

38. Sri Lanka welcomed the strengthening of the rule of law and the judiciary. It requested information on the measures taken to improve the status of women and to empower them to engage in political work and in the legislative process.

39. The Sudan commended the ratification of a number of core human rights instruments, the adoption of legislative measures to combat violence, and the creation of the plan of action to advance the rights of women.

40. Sweden noted that the main Bahraini opposition group, Al-Wefaq, had been dissolved in June 2016, entailing significant limitations on the right to freedom of association and assembly, and that the first execution in over six years had been carried out in January 2017.

41. Switzerland commended efforts such as the establishment of new institutions, but expressed regret about the incomplete implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and deplored the measures against civil society.

42. Thailand commended the establishment of the national institution for human rights and acknowledged efforts in promoting human rights training and capacity-building, especially for police and law enforcement officials.

43. Tunisia commended the measures taken to strengthen socioeconomic and cultural rights, and welcomed changes to legislation aimed at enhancing the protection of human rights, criminal justice, efforts to combat torture, and the promotion of cultural dialogue.

44. Turkey welcomed the work of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and the adoption of the civil-settlement initiative to compensate victims. Turkey asked about the measures taken in relation to the unified family law.

45. Uganda welcomed all efforts taken to improve basic mechanisms for the protection of human rights, including the establishment of the commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees.

46. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the State's cooperation with human rights mechanisms and OHCHR and commended the training programme for police officers and law enforcement officers on human rights.

47. The delegation of Bahrain stated that Bahrain had adopted advanced national legislation and had established protective national mechanisms. It strove to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms. It had embarked upon the implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. Some of those recommendations were related to areas covered by mandates of special rapporteurs, most importantly those on combating torture. Bahrain would consider inviting special rapporteurs to visit.

48. The constitution and the legislation in Bahrain provided for fair trial safeguards, and sentences could be appealed up to the highest court.

49. The Al-Wefaq association had been dissolved pursuant to a decision of the high civil court. The supreme court of appeal had upheld the ruling. The Al-Wefaq association had appealed the decision before the cassation court; the appeal was still pending. The high civil court had issued its ruling based on the grounds that the association had: (a) targeted the principle of respect for the rule of law and the foundations of citizenship; (b) provided a conducive environment for terrorism, extremism and violence; (c) invoked external interventions in internal affairs; and (d) exploited religious platforms in political activities.

50. The Ministry of Justice had filed a petition for the dissolution of the Wa'ad association in the light of the serious violations the association had committed against the rule of law and of its support and glorification of terrorism and persons convicted of terrorism. The case was still before the competent court.

51. The United Kingdom stated that in 2016 and 2017 it had registered concerns at the Human Rights Council, including with regard to the resumption of the use of the death penalty and deprivation of citizenship. It encouraged Bahrain to promote social cohesion, inclusivity and freedom of expression.

52. The United States noted that there had been a decrease in the use of excessive force and acknowledged achievements in promoting women's equality. It expressed regret about restrictions on peaceful assembly and association and travel of human rights activists. It expressed concern about the inconsistency of fair trial guarantees and arbitrary revocations of citizenship.

53. Uruguay welcomed the legislation to abolish torture, as well as the establishment of institutions to investigate alleged cases of torture. It noted the progress made towards withdrawing the State's reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Uruguay reiterated the importance of extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.

54. Uzbekistan welcomed that Bahrain had taken measures to work more closely with OHCHR and civil society to implement recommendations made during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, including through the adoption of national plans aimed at the empowerment of women.

55. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela applauded Bahrain for the broad consultations undertaken in preparation of the national report. It welcomed reforms that ensured that the national human rights institution was in compliance with the Paris Principles, as well as efforts to ensure gender equality.

56. Yemen commended the efforts of the Government to adopt national strategies on development and on the rights of women, children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

57. Algeria welcomed efforts to improve the institutional framework for the rights of prisoners and detainees, the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman and the adoption of a number of laws to ensure alignment of the legal framework of Bahrain with international human rights standards.

58. Angola commended Bahrain for its efforts to implement supported recommendations from the second review, including through measures to enhance gender equality and promote the status of women. It encouraged Bahrain to continue its commitment to strengthen the development programme in order to adhere to the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

59. Argentina congratulated Bahrain for submitting a mid-term report in 2014 and for launching an action programme for the period 2015-2018.

60. Armenia appreciated the establishment of the national institution for human rights and efforts related to the right to health, inclusive education and training programmes for women. It encouraged Bahrain to impose a moratorium on the death penalty.

61. Australia was encouraged by the establishment of human rights oversight bodies and acknowledged the advances made in the area of women's rights. It expressed concern about the January 2017 executions of three citizens. Australia encouraged a return to the national reconciliation process.

62. Austria expressed concern at the renewed recourse to executions, the prosecution of human rights defenders and the extension of the competence of military tribunals over civilians. It urged Bahrain to enhance the new entities established to safeguard human rights, with a view to ensuring their independence and impartiality.

63. Azerbaijan highlighted the measures taken by Bahrain to advance the role of women in society. It welcomed institutional reforms to ensure inter-agency coordination on human trafficking.

64. Bangladesh commended the State's determination to implement the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. It thanked Bahrain for implementing the recommendations on enhancing women's rights. Bangladesh commended the fact that, under the Private Sector Employment Act, the welfare of expatriate workers was ensured.

65. Belgium acknowledged that several positive steps had been taken to implement recommendations from the second review; however, a number of accepted recommendations had not been fully implemented. Belgium expressed concern about the resumption of executions following a de facto moratorium dating from 2010, and about the practice of revoking citizenship.

66. Botswana remained concerned by the curtailment of fundamental freedoms; harassment and arbitrary detentions; the crack-down on human rights defenders; the prevalence of the trafficking of girls and women to Bahrain; and the discriminatory nationality law.

67. Brazil commended Bahrain for taking steps to strengthen the independence of the national human rights institution. It recalled the importance of protecting human rights defenders and encouraged the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

68. Brunei Darussalam noted the efforts made in the advancement of women. It acknowledged the work done in ensuring access to quality education, particularly for vulnerable groups.

69. Bulgaria reiterated its strong opposition to the use of the death penalty, and considered that the executions in 2017 represented a setback, interrupting a de facto moratorium of six years. Bulgaria viewed the legislative amendment to stop the application of the death penalty to pregnant women as a step in the right direction. It expressed concern that abortion had been criminalized even in cases of rape or incest.

70. Canada encouraged Bahrain to empower the Office of the Ombudsman, the national institute of human rights and the commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees to enable them to hold government to account.

71. Chile was deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Bahrain, and noted the shrinking of democratic space and space for civil society. It was also concerned that torture and ill-treatment, particularly of detainees, continued to be common practices.

72. China welcomed efforts made to protect national stability and to promote and protect human rights through the adoption of the national development strategy for 2015-2018, prepared in connection with the country's Economic Vision 2030. It noted efforts in the justice sector and in the areas of women rights and the employment of foreign citizens.

73. Cuba noted the measures taken to ensure the functioning of the criminal justice system and the development of the capacity of the national police to respect human rights in the course of law enforcement. It also noted the implementation of the country's Economic Vision 2030 on the basis of sustainability, equity and competitiveness and the promotion of human rights.

74. Cyprus noted with satisfaction efforts made to comply with international human rights obligations. It encouraged continued efforts to strengthen capacity-building and training in the area of law enforcement with the aim of ensuring full respect for human rights.

75. Czechia expressed appreciation for the responses to some of its advance questions. It welcomed the submission by Bahrain of the voluntary midterm report.

76. Denmark remained concerned by the human rights situation, which included ongoing violations of the rights to freedom of expression and to freedom of association and assembly and arbitrary arrests of citizens. Denmark noted with serious concern the particularly high number of denaturalizations of Bahraini citizens since 2012.

77. Djibouti noted the adoption of measures to implement the recommendations from the second cycle, in particular on implementing, with OHCHR, a programme for technical cooperation and capacity-building, including civil society.

78. Egypt expressed appreciation for legislative efforts, particularly laws related to judicial authority, domestic violence, political associations, labour and families. It welcomed the establishment of national mechanisms to promote human rights, including the supreme coordination committee for human rights, the commission for the rights of prisoners and detainees and the Office of the Ombudsman.

79. Estonia expressed disappointment about incidents of reprisal against human rights defenders, in particular the travel ban imposed on Sayed Hadi al-Musawi, who was supposed to speak at the pre-sessional meeting for the review of Bahrain. It expressed regret about the executions that had been carried out and called for a moratorium on the death penalty.

80. Ethiopia commended the Government for the measures taken to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle and for its positive engagement with OHCHR in the light of consultations and agreements reached on cooperation projects in several areas, including to build the capacity of law enforcement officers.

81. Finland expressed a strong hope that, following the executions in January, Bahrain would return to its de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to establishing an official moratorium.

82. France said that the fight against terrorism must be undertaken with due respect for human rights. It asked about national monitoring mechanisms. France expressed concern about the executions that had been carried out, and called on Bahrain to respect freedom of expression and the freedom of the press.

83. Germany commended Bahrain for its efforts to strengthen the mandate of the national institution for human rights and welcomed the amendments to the law on political societies, which provided for the separation of religion and politics. Germany remained concerned about the recent application of the death penalty and troubled by reports about human rights defenders being banned from travelling to attend pre-sessional meetings for the current universal periodic review session.

84. The head of the delegation of Bahrain stated that the death penalty was applied only to a limited number of serious cases. There were adequate safeguards in Bahraini law for the imposition and application of the death penalty. The penal code provided for the possibility of commuting a death sentence to a life sentence or imprisonment for a lesser period if the crime was committed under circumstances that justified commuting the death penalty.

85. The nationality code was aligned to international standards. Nationality could be withdrawn or lost, in accordance with the law. To protect society against acts of terrorism,

the commission of acts of terrorism resulted in the loss of nationality; such decisions could be appealed up to the highest level of the judiciary.

86. Concerning the travel ban for human rights defenders, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bahrain had acceded in 2006, everyone should be free to leave any country, "including his own", and that right should not be subject to any restrictions except those which are provided by law and are necessary to protect national security, public order (*ordre public*), public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others.

87. The secretariat of the Ombudsman had been established in July 2013; it received complaints brought against any employee of the Ministry of the Interior. It had dealt with more than 3,200 cases, 70 per cent of which involved individual or collective requests for assistance or for information concerning the competent authorities of the Ministry. Many of the recommendations it had made had been received positively and had been addressed and implemented.

88. On 27 February 2012, the Attorney General had issued decision No. 8, establishing the independent Special Investigations Unit, which was considered a division of the judiciary. Its task, as outlined in the decision, was to determine the criminal responsibility of government officials accused of committing unlawful acts that had resulted in murder, torture, abuse or ill-treatment. The Unit continued to investigate such allegations and, where necessary, initiate prosecutions, in accordance with international standards, such as the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), including allegations against officials holding leadership positions, under the principle of command responsibility.

89. In accordance with royal decree No. 61 of 2013, a commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees had been established. Bahrain had adopted the principles of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Commission monitored prisons, detention centres and juvenile detention centres to ascertain the conditions of detention and the treatment that detainees received. Members of the commission exercised their functions independently, transparently and impartially.

90. Ghana welcomed the amendments to certain provisions of the law on judicial authority and the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman. It noted with concern that despite the acceptance by Bahrain of recommendations made during its second review to provide remedy to victims of discrimination and to protect ethnic and religious communities, action had yet to be taken by the Government.

91. Guatemala noted that the Constitution guaranteed equality and protected against discrimination on religious grounds, but that there was no recognition of the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief. Guatemala urged Bahrain to adopt measures to protect religious minorities.

92. Honduras acknowledged positive measures taken by Bahrain to implement the majority of the received recommendations, noting in particular the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman.

93. Iceland remained concerned about the worsening human rights situation, including the clamp-down on human rights defenders and civil society. Iceland called on Bahrain to create conditions that fostered reconciliation and an inclusive political process.

94. India welcomed the cooperation of Bahrain with OHCHR and the training programmes for the judiciary. India requested details on the implementation of the national plan for the advancement of women and the progress achieved under the project to reform the labour market, and encouraged continuous efforts in the protection of foreign workers.

95. Indonesia commended Bahrain for the establishment of independent bodies that monitored the rights of prisoners and detainees and for its close cooperation with OHCHR on technical cooperation and a capacity-building programme.

96. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed regret that the political situation had stagnated since the second cycle of the universal periodic review, mainly owing to pressure on those involved in peaceful and political activities, imprisonment of political and religious leaders and systematic harassment of the Shia population. It noted that about 1,000 persons in Bahrain were stateless because their nationality had been revoked.

97. Iraq commended Bahrain on the steps it had taken to set up the commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Special Investigations Unit, which reflected the State's efforts and legislation aimed at equality and protecting national unity and social cohesion.

98. Ireland urged Bahrain to accept the visit requests of the special procedure mandate holders and OHCHR. It urged Bahrain to immediately put an end to harassment of and reprisals against human rights defenders engaging in national and international advocacy. It shared the concerns of the Committee against Torture regarding torture and condemned the reintroduction of the death penalty.

99. Italy welcomed the establishment of the commission on the rights of prisoners and detainees, the Special Investigations Unit and the Office of the Ombudsman, as well as the adoption of the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women.

100. Jordan appreciated the initiatives Bahrain had undertaken to strengthen the institutional, legislative and constitutional frameworks and enjoyment of fundamental freedoms. Jordan welcomed the establishment of the ombudsman's office and the high committee on the integrity of elections.

101. Kuwait commended Bahrain on submitting its reports for review on time. Kuwait supported all the measures taken by Bahrain to address terrorism, which it regarded as targeting the safety and security of citizens.

102. Lebanon commended Bahrain on fulfilling its international obligations in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights. Lebanon noted the grant allocated by Bahrain to provide training for judiciary members in line with international standards and human rights principles.

103. Libya appreciated the establishment of the national human rights institution, the adoption of a national development strategy and the launch of the national plan for the advancement of women. It asked Bahrain about the education and awareness training programme aimed at ensuring social integration.

104. Lithuania noted with pleasure the great efforts made since the previous review to improve the country's human rights record. It congratulated Bahrain on the adoption of the law on child protection and for amending the penal code.

105. Luxembourg welcomed that a certain amount of progress had been made in the area of human rights, in particular women's rights, including those related to economic independence, and workers' rights. Nevertheless, there were still major challenges.

106. Maldives commended the launch of the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women (2013-2022), in particular the focus on the principle of providing equal opportunities for and empowering women, and the establishment of a national committee to combat human trafficking.

107. Mauritania noted with satisfaction amendments made to legislation to ensure conformity with international standards of human rights and criminal justice, such as the amendments to the penal code concerning torture and to the law on public security relating to protecting victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.

108. The State of Palestine welcomed the State's accession to human rights instruments, encouraged additional efforts to adopt national legislation in line with the international human rights standards and noted the adoption of several strategies and plans and the establishment of the national human rights institution.

109. The delegation of Bahrain reported that preparation of a new bill on press and electronic media was under way, and that the bill was aimed at promoting the freedom and independence of the press and electronic media institutions in accordance with international

norms. The bill included provisions prohibiting calls to violence or hatred, threats to national security, violations of the rights and dignity of others or morality and infringement of any of the human rights principles. Executive and judicial measures were being taken to prohibit any incitement to sectarianism, violence, religious hatred or racism in the mass media, in accordance with the penal code and its amendments and the current press law promulgated by legislative decree No. 47 of 2002. Bahrain supported the rights of journalists to carry out their mission in freedom and independence, and penalized any assault against them, citing the existing penalties related to assaulting a public official, in conformity with articles 29-34 of the press law.

110. The Government had adopted an initiative on civil settlement to compensate those who had been harmed in the events of February and March 2011, based on a proposal by the national committee that had been established to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, without prejudice to the rights of the aggrieved parties to resort to civil proceedings that did not address criminal accountability.

111. Legislative decree No. 47 constituted the legislative framework for newspapers, the staff of which performed their role without any prior censorship of content; the decree also ensured equal opportunity among all newspapers with regard to obtaining information and news from sources and publishing such news, provided it was not based on, or that it did not spread, rumours. Any restriction on the free flow of information was prohibited. It was prohibited to oblige any journalist to divulge information sources. Slander, libel, defamation of reputation and inciting a person to commit a crime were prohibited. To date, no journalist had ever been imprisoned.

112. The Supreme Council for Women had paid special attention to the issue of children born to Bahraini women who were married to foreigners. The Cabinet had issued a decision accepting a bill to modify some provisions of the nationality code in order to allow those children to be granted Bahraini nationality in accordance with specific rules. The bill had been submitted to the legislature.

113. The head of the delegation of Bahrain extended his thanks to all of the States that had participated in the interactive dialogue, and his special thanks to the members of the troika and the Secretariat. He reiterated that Bahrain would continue to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the framework of the national action charter, the constitution, its legislation, its international obligations and the policies and programmes of the Government. Bahrain was looking forward to benefiting from the interactive dialogue under the universal periodic review mechanism, the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies, and to strengthening its cooperation with OHCHR.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

114. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below will be examined by Bahrain, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council:**

114.1 **Ratify the main human rights instruments to which Bahrain is not yet party, and adapt its national legislation to these and withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);**

114.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia) (Uruguay) (Ireland);**

114.3 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and abolish the death penalty (Portugal); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Angola);**

114.4 **Continue the ratification process of the main international human rights-related instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy);**

114.5 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in order to contribute to the work already done (Uruguay); Ratify before the next universal periodic review cycle the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia); Positively examine the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Cyprus); Move towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

114.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal) (Estonia) (Guatemala) (Ghana) (Denmark) (Luxembourg) (Lithuania);**

114.7 **Ratify the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);**

114.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Guatemala);**

114.9 **Ratify the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Switzerland) (Philippines) (Ghana) (Uganda);**

114.10 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines) (Ghana) (Guatemala);**

114.11 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay) (Ghana) (Portugal);**

114.12 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Portugal) (Estonia);**

114.13 **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

114.14 **Proceed with the ratification of, and full alignment of its national legislation with all obligations under, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including incorporating the Statute's definition of crimes as amended at the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 2010 and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court, and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Finland);**

114.15 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Uganda);**

114.16 **Accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Mexico);**

114.17 **Take steps to establish an independent, effective and well-resourced national preventive mechanism in compliance with Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture requirements (Ghana);**

114.18 **Adhere and adopt national legislation in line with the Rome Statute, including the incorporation of the provisions for swift cooperation with the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

114.19 **Continue cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms in order to protect and promote human rights (Saudi Arabia);**

114.20 **Continue efforts for international cooperation in the field of human rights and benefit from relevant international experiences (Sudan);**

114.21 **Continue to extend cooperation with the United Nations and to make the best use of the international expertise available through the relevant international mechanisms (Azerbaijan);**

114.22 **Ensure that all Bahrainis can freely cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Czechia);**

114.23 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.24 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures as soon as possible (Netherlands); Extend the standing invitation to all the mechanisms and special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Honduras); Facilitate a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Guatemala); Issue a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders (Bulgaria);**

114.25 **Cooperate with special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including by swiftly providing access for special rapporteurs with outstanding requests for visits to Bahrain (Iceland);**

114.26 **Encourage the Government to cooperate with all special procedures mandate holders (Iraq);**

114.27 **Continue to strengthen its cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by accepting country visits of special rapporteurs (Republic of Korea);**

114.28 **Allow the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit Bahrain, following up on the acceptance of recommendations to that effect made in the second cycle (Austria);**

114.29 **Accept the request of the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (France);**

114.30 **Implement fully recommendations made by the United Nations mandate holders, including through the immediate release of all political prisoners and by ending impunity, thus bringing perpetrators of human rights violations to justice (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

114.31 **Encourage the Government to implement the pledges and commitments undertaken during the second cycle of the universal periodic review in 2012 (Iraq);**

114.32 **Continue the project of technical cooperation with OHCHR in a number of different areas, particularly to strengthen the capacity of persons in charge of enforcing the law (Djibouti);**

114.33 **Strengthen the cooperation with OHCHR (Honduras);**

114.34 **Accept a visit from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights or a United Nations special rapporteur to identify steps to strengthen human rights institutions (United States of America);**

114.35 **Review laws and practices to ensure that they are compliant with international human rights law (Portugal);**

114.36 **Adhere to and adopt national legislation to bring it into line with the Arms Trade Treaty (Guatemala);**

114.37 **Set a timeline with clear deadlines for the implementation of all Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry recommendations and provide regular and public reports on the progress of their implementation (Slovenia);**

114.38 **Strengthen partnerships between official institutions and the national human rights institutions through the implementation of the bilateral programmes of cooperation (Algeria);**

114.39 **Continue to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ombudsman of the National Security Agency and the Special Investigations Unit, so they can fulfil their mandates effectively (New Zealand);**

114.40 **Take all measures to ensure the independence, including financial, and the effectiveness of the national human rights institution and to protect it from all forms of pressure or reprisal in connection with its work to promote and protect human rights (Montenegro); Strengthen the national human rights institution of Bahrain and ensure its full compliance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea); Continue strengthening the national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles, especially in terms of increasing its independence and authority (Indonesia);**

114.41 **Strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (State of Palestine); Strengthen the capacity of the national human rights institution to have access to cases that require special attention (Libya);**

114.42 **Continue introducing international norms of human rights in the national legislation and efforts to increase the potential and capacity of national human rights institutions (Uzbekistan);**

114.43 **Continue the implementation of the national strategic action plan 2012-2016 on persons with disabilities (Djibouti);**

114.44 **Further enhance the capacity of the national committee for childhood for the full implementation of the national childhood strategic action plan (Ethiopia);**

114.45 **Continue to promote human rights education (Pakistan);**

114.46 **Take measures to improve the education system and carry out programmes aimed at enhancing awareness about human rights at the national level (Uzbekistan);**

114.47 **Include human rights education in school curricula (Armenia);**

114.48 **Intensify programmes aimed at promoting and protecting human rights in school curricula (Kuwait);**

114.49 **Strengthen education for law enforcement personnel on international human rights laws, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Korea);**

114.50 **Improve the capacity and training of the security forces in the area of human rights and moderate use of force, both in their response to peaceful protests and in places of detention (Spain);**

114.51 **Disseminate widely in the society the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials (United Arab Emirates);**

114.52 **Continue the training programmes for magistrates and law enforcement officials in accordance with international standards and human rights principles (Lebanon);**

114.53 **Continue to raise awareness of human rights among all groups, particularly the younger generations, through education, training and media communications (Thailand);**

114.54 Raise awareness in the society, among people of all ages, to enable them to recognize the importance of civil society organizations and their role in the dynamics of Bahraini society (Tunisia);

114.55 Allow international NGOs to visit Bahrain and to carry out their human rights work without restrictions, including by abolishing the current five-day limit for such visits (Iceland);

114.56 Engage in a genuine national dialogue in an open and inclusive manner with all stakeholders, with the aim of effectively addressing the legitimate aspirations and concerns of all the population in a comprehensive and inclusive manner (Islamic Republic of Iran);

114.57 Take urgent steps to facilitate the work of civil society and human rights defenders, and guarantee protection of all persons from intimidation or reprisals for seeking to cooperate with the United Nations (Ireland);

114.58 Maintain its commitment to achieving concrete political reform based on respect of the legitimate rights and aspirations of all its citizens, consistent with Bahrain's international obligations and acceptance of the findings and recommendations of the 2011 report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (Australia);

114.59 Ensure the full implementation of all recommendations from the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry (Belgium);

114.60 Continue adopting programmes and policies to strengthen national unity and cohesion (Egypt);

114.61 Take specific and additional measures aimed at strengthening its national unity and internal domestic security and fostering cooperation in order to disseminate the culture of social peaceful coherence and guarantee freedom of expression that ensures social justice among all components of society (Iraq);

114.62 Adopt effective measures in law and practice to eradicate all forms of discrimination, in particular on the basis of religion or belief (Honduras);

114.63 Take additional measures to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, as well as discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief, in line with Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 (Brazil);

114.64 Continue the application of policies and programmes on comprehensive and sustainable development (Cuba);

114.65 Continue paying attention to achieving comprehensive development through support for a human rights culture through the media and the educational system (Jordan);

114.66 Continue to implement policies and programmes for comprehensive and sustainable development (Libya);

114.67 Work towards raising awareness of the right to a safe environment through participation and cooperation among all partners (Tunisia);

114.68 Rescind the amendment of law 105b that allows for civilians to be prosecuted in military courts if accused of terrorism (Netherlands);

114.69 Ensure that counter-terrorist measures are fully consistent with Bahrain's international human rights obligations (Brazil);

114.70 Review the anti-terrorism law and its implementation in order to ensure it cannot be abused for harassment, detention and prosecution of dissenters (Czechia);

114.71 **Amend the 2006 law on protecting society from terrorist acts to avoid imposing statelessness on individuals and minimize the negative impact on the families of those affected (Germany);**

114.72 **Continue with the strategy of combating terrorism in order to protect human rights (Kuwait);**

114.73 **Continue efforts to promote the participation of women in political, economic, social and all other spheres (Myanmar);**

114.74 **Abolish the death penalty, and commute all death sentences to prison terms (Sweden);**

114.75 **Commute all the death sentences and establish a moratorium on executions (Portugal); Commute all death sentences, declare a moratorium on executions and move towards an abolition of the death penalty (Norway); Introduce a moratorium on the execution of the death penalty (Germany); Impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro); Re-introduce the moratorium on executions with a view to definitively abolishing the death penalty (Spain); Impose an official moratorium on the death penalty and replace the death penalty with a sentence that is fair and proportionate and respects international human rights standards (Bulgaria);**

114.76 **Suspend without delay the executions and declare a moratorium on the application of death penalty as the first phase towards its abolition (France); Immediately implement a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing the practice (Australia); Immediately declare an official moratorium on executions with a view to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the abolition of the death penalty (Austria); Establish without delay a legal moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its subsequent abolition (Luxembourg)**

114.77 **Establish an official moratorium on the death penalty (Lithuania); Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy); Take urgent measures to establish a formal moratorium on executions of prisoners on death row (Argentina); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Chile);**

114.78 **Restrict the use of the death penalty to crimes that meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" under international law (Belgium);**

114.79 **Investigate all allegations of torture and start prosecuting all individuals found responsible (Norway);**

114.80 **Ensure accountability for perpetrators of torture and access by victims of torture to justice, redress and rehabilitation (Czechia);**

114.81 **Further implement measures on the protection of victims of mistreatment and torture and on the prosecution of perpetrators (Italy);**

114.82 **Criminalize torture in its legislation and establish a national preventive mechanism for torture (Spain);**

114.83 **Ensure the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the Special Investigations Unit and other relevant human rights institutions in investigating all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, unlawful killings and deaths in custody (Finland);**

114.84 **Strengthen health services for prisoners and detainees (Qatar);**[1]

[1] On 5 May 2017, at the time of adoption of the draft document during the 10th meeting of the Working Group, this recommendation was withdrawn by the delegation of Qatar.

114.85 **Continue and further efforts to prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons (Saudi Arabia);**

114.86 **Further improve measures aimed at combating human trafficking, including victim assistance (Sri Lanka);**

114.87 **Promptly carry out an in-depth investigation into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, such as the case of the three persons executed in January 2017, and bring those responsible to justice (Switzerland);**

114.88 **Implement a national strategy to tackle the trafficking of women and girls, while building on its excellent work to ensure the effective protection of all workers, including migrant workers, against discrimination, and to ratify the 2014 protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 of the International Labour Organization (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.89 **Step up efforts to combat human trafficking and strengthen the protection of victims (Angola);**

114.90 **Further intensify the combating of human trafficking and the protection of victims of trafficking in persons by removing the existing obstacles (Ethiopia);**

114.91 **Consider formulating a strategy against trafficking in persons (India);**

114.92 **Adopt a comprehensive national strategy against trafficking in persons (Maldives);**

114.93 **Intensify efforts to provide public education and training on the human trafficking law (Azerbaijan);**

114.94 **Ensure that all allegations of enforced disappearances, torture or any other form of ill-treatment are independently, promptly and thoroughly investigated, and perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance with international rule of law standards (Germany);**

114.95 **Release all arbitrarily detained persons in Bahrain, including the Danish-Bahrain citizen Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, a victim of torture who needs treatment and rehabilitation (Denmark);**

114.96 **Take necessary measures to guarantee the enjoyment of all fundamental freedoms, including the participation in political and public affairs by all (Botswana);**

114.97 **Avoid the intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organizations, lifting the restrictions imposed on them and allowing them to freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly (Spain);**

114.98 **Adopt a law to protect human rights defenders that includes special protection for vulnerable groups of defenders, including women defenders and those who express themselves through the Internet and social media (Mexico);**

114.99 **Rescind impediments to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (New Zealand);**

114.100 **Release as soon as possible all individuals, including human rights defenders, having been imprisoned solely due to the exercise of their fundamental rights of expression and assembly (Norway);**

114.101 **Protect the rights to freedom of association and assembly in accordance with its international obligations, notably those under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and cease the dissolution of political parties and civil society organizations (Sweden);**

114.102 **Release all persons detained solely for the exercise of their right to freedom of expression or their right to peaceful assembly and repeal all legislative provisions criminalizing the exercise of these rights (Switzerland);**

114.103 **Review convictions, commute sentences, or drop charges for all persons imprisoned solely for non-violent political expression (United States of America);**

114.104 **Remove undue restrictions on the online publication of news media, and the licencing restrictions on media organizations and individuals seeking to practise journalism (Canada);**

114.105 **Amend the penal code and the press law to remove criminal penalties for alleged libel and insult offences, as accepted by Bahrain during its last universal periodic review (Canada);**

114.106 **Align the press law and penal code with the obligations under international human rights law, especially article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);**

114.107 **Redouble efforts to promote and safeguard the freedom and independence of the press and electronic media on the basis of international standards and norms (Cyprus);**

114.108 **Ensure that the new bill for the press and electronic media complies with international norms and continues its efforts to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly and association (State of Palestine);**

114.109 **Take measures to guarantee the exercise of the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly and to promote and facilitate the activities of NGOs (France);**

114.110 **Modify the legislation to repeal criminal responsibility for activities that fall within the legitimate exercise of the freedom of expression, particularly on the Internet and Twitter (France);**

114.111 **Repeal or amend all laws that restrict the freedoms of expression, association or assembly, including decree No. 31 of 2013, Law No. 34 of 2014, and Law No. 26 of 2015 (Germany);**

114.112 **Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience imprisoned only for exercising their right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Iceland);**

114.113 **Implement relevant legislation for the full exercise of the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Italy);**

114.114 **Continue strengthening the freedom of the media and the rights of media workers (Lebanon);**

114.115 **Respect the legitimate rights of all its citizens to freedom of assembly, expression and participation in political societies (Australia);**

114.116 **Reduce restrictions on peaceful assembly and association, allow individuals to participate freely in independent political societies, consistent with the Constitution and national action charter, and cease unwarranted legal action against Wefaq and Wa'ad for engaging in protected activities (United States of America);**

114.117 **Take further steps to create a more enabling environment for international and national media platforms and ensure plurality of opinions within the country (Lithuania);**

114.118 **Allow journalists to exercise their profession, and refrain from arbitrarily withholding licence renewals (Lithuania);**

114.119 Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and members of the political opposition from acts of aggression and intimidation and abstain from taking any restrictive measures or reprisals against human rights defenders, notably those who cooperate with the Human Rights Council (Luxembourg);

114.120 Finalize and enact the new media law with the meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, providing for a truly independent regulatory body (Austria);

114.121 Remove undue restrictions on the organization of peaceful protest in opposition to the Government, and repeal the application of criminal penalties to peaceful participation in unauthorized protests (Canada);

114.122 Respect and protect the right of all groups and individuals to participate in legitimate political activities (New Zealand);

114.123 Remove restrictive limitations on the establishment of political parties or membership therein, and cease the dissolution by law of opposition political societies (Canada);

114.124 End immediately the reprisals against human rights defenders and lift restrictions on civil society (Estonia);

114.125 Take effective measures to raise awareness of the rights stipulated in the conventions it has acceded to concerning the judiciary and law enforcement officials (Qatar);

114.126 Ensure that the oversight institutions established following the recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry are fully impartial and independent in order for them to effectively carry out their work (Sweden);

114.127 Ensure that all aspects of criminal procedure are in line with accepted international standards (Australia);

114.128 Focus on strengthening the legal framework, the institutions and the judiciary to guarantee an independent judicial system and the right to fair trial guaranteed by articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France);

114.129 Continue making progress on its reform agenda and to become a role model for the region, including through strengthening the independence, effectiveness and transparency of its oversight bodies, and cooperating with the United Nations system (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

114.130 Guarantee the fight against impunity, ensuring that all those persons found guilty are brought to justice, in the context of allegations of the use of torture to obtain confessions from detainees (Luxembourg);

114.131 Take further steps to ensure equality with respect to all aspects of employment and occupation (Republic of Korea);

114.132 Continue to promote the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular girls, women, migrants and persons with disabilities (Senegal);

114.133 Consider adopting a unified and modern personal status law that is compatible with all legal and procedural requirements (Morocco);

114.134 Review its legislation in order to eliminate provisions that are discriminatory against women (Czechia);

114.135 Take necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Myanmar);

114.136 Pursue efforts to enhance women's rights and fight all sorts of discrimination against women (Tunisia);

114.137 **Further its work in empowering women, promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination and violence against women and children by, inter alia, amending and promulgating relevant laws and implementing the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women (Thailand);**

114.138 **Continue to implement policies that promote gender equality and provide women with opportunities to play an active role in social, economic and political spheres (Singapore);**

114.139 **Continue to seek and cooperate with partners in the field of the implementation of the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women (2022) in order to build a competitive and sustainable society in the kingdom (Oman);**

114.140 **Continue to promote gender equality and actively implement the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women 2013-2022 (China);**

114.141 **Fully implement the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women (2022) in its five lines (Cuba);**

114.142 **Pursue further measures to strengthen gender equality and guarantee the status of women in society at all levels (Algeria);**

114.143 **Continue empowering Bahraini women in the economic, political and social spheres (Egypt);**

114.144 **Continue efforts to promote gender equality and women's political, social and economic empowerment (Nepal);**

114.145 **Continue efforts to empower and advance women and facilitate women's participation in the society, particularly in political life, decision-making and holding leadership positions (Jordan);**

114.146 **Adopt holistic plans and policies to achieve gender equality in public and private spheres and further recommends that specific measures be taken to increase women's participation at all levels and promote women's appointment in leadership positions (Chile);**

114.147 **Further efforts to increase the representation of women in leadership, public and decision-making positions (Sierra Leone);**

114.148 **Continue to bolster progress in the education of girls and women and to further diversify their educational and professional choices (Libya);**

114.149 **Amend the citizenship law to enable women to transfer nationality to their children without restriction and on an equal basis with men (Slovenia);**

114.150 **Finalize the draft law amending certain provisions of the 1963 citizenship act to enable Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men to confer their nationality on their children without any conditions (Botswana); Expedite the legal procedures relating to the Bahraini nationality act of 1963, thus allowing citizenship to be granted, without restrictions, to children of Bahraini women married to foreigners (Sierra Leone);**

114.151 **Step up efforts in amending the law to allow the granting of Bahraini citizenship to children whose mothers are married to foreigners (Philippines);**

114.152 **Deploy all necessary measures to ensure the quick adoption and implementation of the law on nationality to give nationality to children of Bahraini women married to foreigners (Uruguay);**

114.153 **Make necessary efforts to reform all legislation that is discriminatory towards women, in particular the nationality act and the family affairs laws (Argentina);**

114.154 **Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of foreign migrant workers, including women domestic workers, through requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal);**

114.155 **Continue the important process of reconciling the improvement of women's rights and duties within the provision of sharia law (Indonesia);**

114.156 **Continue strengthening the policies aimed at protecting women (Kuwait);**

114.157 **Take steps to ensure the successful implementation of the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women 2013-2022 (Brunei Darussalam);**

114.158 **Increase the number of women in political and public life at all levels and in all areas and promote women in leadership positions and ensure that they are granted opportunities in the higher education system (Turkey);**

114.159 **Continue to promote the rights of children (Pakistan);**

114.160 **Prohibit by law corporal punishment against children in all settings and contexts, including in the home, and repeal all exceptions to its use (Mexico);**

114.161 **Unify the criminal age in the kingdom's legislation to uphold the best interest in the treatment of the child in a manner compatible with his age and dignity and to facilitate his rehabilitation and reintegration in society (Morocco);**

114.162 **Take effective measures to realize the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was ratified in 2011 (United Arab Emirates);**

114.163 **Develop health programmes in health-care centres and correctional and rehabilitation centres to accommodate all age groups and people with special needs (Oman);**

114.164 **Continue to improve the social security system, and take further steps to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);**

114.165 **Continue to support the integration of persons with disabilities in society by strengthening educational support and job training (Singapore);**

114.166 **Promote the participation of persons with disabilities and integrate them more widely in Bahraini society (Sudan);**

114.167 **Continue its steps to promote human rights through effective measures to realize the rights set out in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Yemen);**

114.168 **Ensure the completion and successful running of the nine rehabilitation centres in a comprehensive disability complex (Brunei Darussalam);**

114.169 **Continue strengthening its sound social policies that favour the people, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

114.170 **Ensure the effective protection of migrants, particularly women migrant workers, against discrimination (Philippines);**

114.171 **Strengthen the legal protection for migrant workers, including domestic workers, against discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, religion or nationality (Sierra Leone);**

114.172 **Continue to improve measures to strengthen the rights of foreign migrant workers, including putting in place the necessary domestic legislation and access to health care and legal aid (Sri Lanka);**

114.173 **Speed up the legislative process to operationalize the draft law amending the nationality act so as to address the problem of statelessness in the**

country (Uganda); Amend article 10 (c) of the 1963 citizenship act to bring it into line with international standards (Belgium);

114.174 **End the practice of revoking citizenship from individuals (Denmark);**

114.175 **End the practice of revocation of citizenship, adopt legal and institutional safeguards to prevent discrimination against members of religious minorities and provide effective remedy for victims of arbitrary arrest, detention, summons or travel bans (Czechia);**

114.176 **Abolish the practice of revoking nationality as a punishment on any grounds (Mexico); End the practice of arbitrarily revoking citizenship, especially where this renders individuals stateless and forces them into exile (Belgium).**

115. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

116. Bahrain is working to:

(a) Promulgate a consolidated law on family provisions;

(b) Put in place family courts with all the judicial facilities and services related to the family, taking due account of the specificity and nature of family disputes.

117. Bahrain is also working towards drafting a new law on the press and the electronic media.

118. Bahrain is considering amending the Bahraini citizenship act to grant citizenship to the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners in accordance with the rules regulating the granting of citizenship.

119. The application of policies and programmes on comprehensive and sustainable development continues. Bahrain will submit its first report on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals to the high-level political forum on sustainable development to be held in New York in July 2018.

120. Bahrain is working on increasing awareness in all areas of human rights through available means, including education and the media.

121. Bahrain will submit a voluntary report on what has been accomplished within two years of the adoption of the report on the outcome of the universal periodic review.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bahrain was headed by H.E. Mr. Abdulla Bin Faisal Aldoseri, Assistant Foreign Minister and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ambassador Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla, Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Dr. Yusuf Abdukarim Bucheeri, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Naser Abdulredha Alqaseer, Council of Representatives Member, Shura & Representatives Councils;
- Mr. Ahmed Mahdi Alhaddad, Shura Member, Shura & Representatives Councils;
- Dr. Ibrahim Ali Badawi Elsheikh, Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Mohamed Rashed Alsowaidi, Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Colonel Rashid Bunajma, Director of legal Directorate, Ministry of Interior;
- Captain Abdulla Ahmed Abdulla, Director of Ministerial Committees Directorate, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Alya Yusuf Albenali, Legal Researcher, Ministry of Interior;
- Dr. Waleed Khalifa Yusuf Almanea, Hospitals' Assistant-Undersecretary, Ministry of Interior;
- Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Alkhalifa, Counsellor, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs;
- Dr. Mohamed Alansari, Assistant Undersecretary for Labour Affairs, Ministry of Labour & Social Development;
- Mrs. Ahlam Ahmed Alameer, Director of the Special Education Directorate, Ministry of Education;
- Mr. Ezuddin Khalil Ebrahim Almoyed, Director of Administrative and Information Affairs, Supreme Council for Women;
- Dr. Mohamed Walid Almasri, Legal Adviser, Supreme Council for Women;
- Mr. Nawaf Al Ma'Awdah, Secretary General Ombudsman, Ombudsman;
- Mr. Abdulla Mohamed Alhajeri, Director of Ombudsman's Office, Ombudsman Director of Ombudsman's Office, Ombudsman;
- Mr. Mohamed Ahmed Albusmait, Legal Adviser, Labour Market Regulatory Authority;
- Mr. Fawzan Khalifa Bufarsan, Legal Adviser, Information Affairs Authority;
- Ms. Budoor Ahmed, 1st Secretary, Permanent Mission of Bahrain;
- Mr. Majed Alnoaimi, 3rd Secretary, Permanent Mission of Bahrain;
- Ms. Asma Khalifa Alkaabi, Attaché, Permanent Mission of Bahrain.